

Message Text

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EXDIS: FOR VANDEN HEUVEL FROM MAYNES, IO

E.O. 11652KDS

TAGS: UN, ILO

SUBJECT: ILO

1. THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO CLEARLY CONTEMPLATES MAINTAINING CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE ORGANIZATION AND ITS MEMBERS WITH A VIEW TO RESUMING OUR MEMBERSHIP. IF WE ARE SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN REJOINING, A NUMBER OF URGENT DECISIONS AND CONSULTATIONS ARE IN ORDER. ACTION AT THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY COULD FACILITATE AND MAY BE ESSENTIAL FOR INITIATING THE CHANGES WHICH WOULD PERMIT US TO REENTER.

2. THE CABINET LEVEL COMMITTEE IS NOW SCHEDULED TO MEET ON NOVEMBER 29. FOR THAT MEETING, WE WILL HAVE TO HAVE INFORMATION ON A NUMBER OF MATTERS. AT THIS POINT, WE IDENTIFY THE KEY QUESTIONS AS FOLLOWS:

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A. WHAT STEPS COULD BE TAKEN TO RESSURRECT AND APPROVE THE JUNE 1977 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CON-

VENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS? IS A SPECIAL SESSION POLITICALLY AND CONSTITUTIONALLY POSSIBLE? IS IT POLITICALLY AND CONSTITUTIONALLY POSSIBLE TO PUT THIS ITEM ON THE AGENDA OF THE JUNE 1978 CONFERENCE? WAS BLANCHARD

CORRECT WHEN HE TOLD ME THAT THE JUNE 1978 CONFERENCE AGENDA ALREADY CONTAINS AN ITEM ENTITLED "IMPLEMENTATION OF CONVENTIONS" UNDER WHICH THE JUNE 1977 REPORT COULD BE ADDRESSED?

B. ARE THERE OTHER STEPS--FEASIBLE AND CONSTITUTIONAL--WHICH THE ILO COULD TAKE TO REAFFIRM THE IMPORTANCE AND INTEGRITY OF ITS COMPLIANCE MACHINERY? FOR EXAMPLE, CAN ONE IMAGINE MEMBERS' SUPPORT FOR AN UNDERSTANDING THAT HENCEFORTH ALL REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE AUTOMATICALLY ACCEPTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE?

C. IF THE ILO CONFERENCE, EITHER IN SPECIAL OR REGULAR SESSION, WERE TO READDRESS THE JUNE 1977 REPORT, A KEY QUESTION WILL BE THE DISPOSITION OF THE ISRAELI REPLY TO THE GROUP OF EXPERTS' INQUIRY WHICH NOW APPEARS IN THE REPORT'S APPENDIX. AS YOU KNOW, THE EGYPTIANS ARGUE THAT THEY CANNOT VOTE FOR THE REPORT AS LONG AS THE APPENDIX REMAINS PART OF THE DOCUMENT. DURING MY CONVERSATION WITH BLANCHARD, HE STATED THAT THE ILO LEGAL DEPARTMENT COULD MAKE PUBLIC AN ANALYSIS WHICH WOULD SET TO REST EGYPTIAN FEARS. IS IT POSSIBLE TO GET SUCH AN ANALYSIS?

D. WHEN IS THE ILO LIKELY TO TAKE ACTION TO REPLACE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ON THE GOVERNING BODY? VISS ON THE TIMING
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OF THIS DIFFER HERE. SOME BELIEVE THE ISSUE WILL INEVITABLY BE DECIDED AT THE JUNE 1978 CONFERENCE. OTHERS ARGUE THE ISSUE MIGHT BE POSTPONED BEYOND THE CONFERENCE. ALTHOUGH THE SITUATION IS DIFFERENT, WE NOTE THE ILO HAS HELD THE CHINESE SEAT OPEN DESPITE THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE PRC TO PARTICIPATE AND PAY DUES.

E. WHAT IS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF MEMBERS' WILLINGNESS TO TAKE SOME OF THE ACTIONS SUGGESTED ABOVE WITHOUT MOVEMENT ON THE STRUCTURE ISSUE? IS THERE ANY CONSENSUS FOR A SOLUTION TO THE STRUCTURE PROBLEM WHICH MEETS SOME OF OUR MAIN DEMANDS? WHAT WOULD SUCH PROPOSALS BE?

F. IS IT POSSIBLE TO MAKE PROGRESS ON ARTICLE 17 WITHOUT MOVEMENT ON THE STRUCTURE ISSUE? IF NOT, WHAT KINDS OF TRADE-OFFS ARE PEOPLE LIKELY TO DEMAND?

9. PENDING THE MEETING OF THE CABINET LEVEL COMMITTEE, YOUR INSTRUCTIONS REMAIN TO CONTINUE INFORMAL OBSERVATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNING BODY. HABIB

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